

**REMARKS****Present Status of Application**

The Office Action mailed September 04, 2003, pointed out that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC§103 (a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admission in view of Tamaoka et al. (US Patent No. 6,232,237) and further in view of Bowden et al. (US Patent No. 5,320,709). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC§103 (a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission in view of Tamaoka et al., further in view of Bowden et al. and further in view of Denning (US Patent No. 6,187,682). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC§103 (a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission in view of Tamaoka et al., further in view of Bowden et al. and further in view of Honda et al. (US Patent No. 6,361,712) and as evidenced by Fang et al. (US Patent No. 6,293,848), respectively.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, while claims 2 and 4-5 have been cancelled. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the specification or otherwise in the application. In light of the following discussion, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

**Discussion for 35 USC 103 rejections**

*Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC§103 (a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admission in view of Tamaoka et al. (US Patent No. 6,232,237) and further in view of Bowden et al. (US Patent No. 5,320,709). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC§103 (a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission in view of Tamaoka et al., further in view of Bowden et al. and further in view of Denning (US*

*Patent No. 6,187,682). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC§103 (a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission in view of Tamaoka et al., further in view of Bowden et al. and further in view of Honda et al. (US Patent No. 6,361,712) and as evidenced by Fang et al. (US Patent No. 6,293,848), respectively.*

The Office Action mailed September 04, 2003, pointed out that claims 2 and 3 were objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has most respectfully considered the remarks set forth in the Office Action. According to the suggestions of the Office Action, claim 1 has been amended by merging the limitations of claim 2 into claim 1, while claims 2 and 4-5 have been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended for synchronizing its dependency.

As a result, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 patently defines over the prior art and the cited reference. Dependent claims are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 8, from which these claims respectively depend, as well as for the additional features that these claims recite. The claims are believed allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the rejection under § 103 should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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WU & CHEUNG, LLP

By: 

Charles C.H. Wu, Esq.

REG. NO. 39,081

7700 IRVINE CENTER DRIVE, STE. 710

IRVINE, CALIF. 92618-3043

TEL: 949-251-0111

FAX: 949-251-1588

E-MAIL: CCHWU@EARTHLINK.NET

USPTO CUSTOMER NO.: 25864